

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

The Notice to Mariners is published by the National Imagery and Mapping Agency (NIMA), under the authority of Department of Defense Directive 5105.40, to advise mariners of important matters affecting navigational safety, including new hydrographic discoveries, changes in channels and navigational aids, etc. (U.S. Code Title 10, Sec. 442 and Title 44, Sec. 1336 refer). Nothing in the arrangement of information implies endorsement or acceptance by NIMA in matters affecting the status and boundaries of States and territories. The Notice to Mariners presents corrective information affecting charts, NIMA Hydrographic Products Catalog, Coast Pilots, Sailing Directions, Fleet Guides, USCG Light Lists, NIMA List of Lights, Radio Navigational Aids and other products produced by the National Imagery and Mapping Agency, National Ocean Service and U.S. Coast Guard.

Information for the Notice to Mariners is contributed by the following Agencies: National Imagery and Mapping Agency (NIMA) (Department of Defense) for waters outside the territorial limits of the United States; National Ocean Service (NOS) (Department of Commerce), which is charged with the surveys and charting of the coasts and harbors of the United States and its territories; the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) (Department of Transportation), which is responsible for the safety of life at sea and the establishment and operation of aids to navigation; and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Department of Defense), which is charged with the improvement of rivers and harbors of the United States. In addition, important contributions are made by foreign hydrographic offices and cooperating observers of all nationalities.

For further information concerning NIMA hydrographic products and services, including the Maritime Safety Information Website, users may contact:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Telephone</u>	<u>DSN</u>	<u>FAX</u>
Maritime Safety Information Division	301-227-2588	287-2588	301-227-5745
World-Wide Navigational Warning Service	301-227-3147	287-3147	301-227-3731
Fleet Liaison Officer	301-227-3120	287-3120	301-227-4211
Maritime Safety Information Website	301-227-3296	287-3296	301-227-4211
Notice to Mariners: Regions 1 and 2	301-227-3122	287-3122	301-227-3175
Notice to Mariners: Regions 3, 4, 5	301-227-3146	287-3146	301-227-3175
Notice to Mariners: Regions 6 thru 9	301-227-3146	287-3146	301-227-3175
Sailing Directions, Fleet Guides	301-227-3183	287-3183	301-227-3174
Navigation Science Publications	301-227-3120	287-3120	301-227-3731
Distribution Issues	301-227-7652	287-7652	301-227-4211

The Maritime Safety Information Website can be accessed via the NIMA Homepage (www.nima.mil) under the Safety of Navigation icon or directly at (<http://pollux.nss.nima.mil>). For your convenience NIMA provides three e-mail addresses. For information affecting Notice to Mariners use NavNotices@nima.mil, for information affecting Sailing Directions and all other navigational publications use SDPUBS@nima.mil, for information concerning the Maritime Safety Information Website, use webmaster_nss@nima.mil.

Mariners are requested to notify NIMA of discrepancies in charts and publications, using the Marine Information Report and Suggestion Sheet at the back of this Notice to Mariners. This form should also be used to report permanent changes, additions, or deletions from charted or published information. Reports which constitute an immediate hazard to navigation should be sent to the nearest NAVAREA Coordinator via coast radio stations. All reports are greatly appreciated. Marine Information Report and Suggestion sheets received during the past week were submitted by the following observers:

Observer	Ship/Organization
Capt. Hajime Onodera	Hatchiuma Steamship Co., Ltd.

Cover Photo: On February 8, 1950, at 1000 hours the greatest merchant ship ever ordered for this country was realized as the first keel plate assembly of "Hull #488" was lowered into a graving dock at the Newport News Shipbuilding and Drydock Co. Although her design phase occupied five years, the shipyard completed construction in 28 months and 12 days. The result was an engineering marvel that has not been equaled. She was the superliner **SS UNITED STATES** and was the culmination of a lifelong dream for her designer, William Francis Gibbs. At a staggering cost of \$79,373,000, Gibbs incorporated every possible refinement of naval architecture and technology. Exceptional safety measures were incorporated including double hull construction, extra thick high tensile steel plating and fully duplicated engine rooms. She was totally fireproof, being constructed completely of nonflammable materials. Her 241,785 SHP and quadruple screws could propel her 990 feet and 53,330 gross tons in excess of 38 knots. On her maiden voyage she became the fastest ship ever to cross the Atlantic, making the passage in 3 days 10 hours 42 minutes averaging 35.59 knots. Throughout her 17 years at sea she held a nearly perfect sailing schedule and never experienced an engineering failure. She proved herself against all challenges of the sea. From dream to reality indeed, America had built the world's fastest, safest and most technologically advanced liner-The **SS UNITED STATES**. Photo courtesy of the Mariners' Museum, Newport News, Virginia